

Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee
SECTOR OPEN HOUSE + STATUS REPORT JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
REPORT

AUGUST 17, 2009

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS, TOPICS AND ATTENDEES

1. The Status Report (SR) and Sector Open Houses (SOH) Subcommittees met jointly on August 17, 2009 to discuss ideas for the upcoming open houses and status report updates. In attendance were Boaz Ashkenazy and Christie Coxley from the SOH Subcommittee, and Heidi Oien, Amalia Leighton and Dennis Saxman from the SR Subcommittee, as well as David Goldberg from DPD.

SUMMARY OF SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Status Report Discussion:

David Goldberg updated the group on DPD's current thinking for Status Report updates:

1. An interdepartmental team (IDT) at DPD is reviewing SRs to determine if more data is needed, reviewing input from OHs and checking to make sure other departments' scope is accurately represented in each SR. This group is also advising on Open House format. The following will be added or updated in each SR:
 - a. Updated housing data
 - b. King County Health data (though it will not correspond directly to Village boundaries)
 - c. Anecdotal sustainability indicators
 - d. More explanations for charts and graphs
 - e. A summary of themes from OHs in a bullet point format. All open house and online comments will be download-able in addition to the summary contained within the SRs. DPD is interested in hearing ideas from NPAC for how to incorporate community input gathered at the open houses.
2. Download-able open house notes will come from Planning Commissioners who have already submitted their individual notes for inclusion into a final report. The report will be available from SPC at the end of August. *(This will also be explained in another part of the August NPAC meeting and will not be elaborated here.)*
3. Final Draft Status Reports will be available at the October community open houses. What DPD has been calling the citywide "wrapper" is actually the State of the Neighborhoods report, and this would also be available in draft form at the open houses.

The SR Subcommittee recommends requesting the following from DPD regarding the Status Reports:

1. Update the “Community Investment” portion of each neighborhood’s SR to reflect projects that were important to the community—whether they were implemented or not. This section should read less like a city public relations document, and more like a “here’s what happened in the neighborhood” synopsis. This information could come from the online + written questionnaires and open house comments.
2. Update the “Vision” portion of each neighborhood’s SR to reflect community input from the open houses and the on-line questionnaire. In a paragraph following each Vision, state clearly whether the community feels the Vision is still current or is outdated. This information should help to prioritize which neighborhoods should be updated next, and could come from the online + written questionnaires and open house comments.
3. Provide current statistics and trend information throughout the status reports. We understand that there is not adequate funding for current data at this time. However as plan updates are pursued this information should be current.
4. If an item has a larger planning area than the Urban Village, state that this is so. For instance, if a UV does not have a community center, note that, and then say where the closest one is.
5. There are many ideas NPAC has forwarded to and discussed with DPD which would ideally be a part of updated status reports. However, the reality of currently available statistics and funding for the status reports, as well as the timing of future updates makes this data more feasible and relevant during a neighborhood Plan Update process. NPAC encourages DPD to keep these general and neighborhood-specific items in mind as it updates neighborhood plans.

Open House Discussion:

David Goldberg updated the group on DPD’s current thinking for the October Status Report Open Houses.

- DPD is considering changing the meeting structure so we have 2 events (North and South) rather than 6 sector events.
- The events would be structured as more of an open house than a community breakout session.
- PC/NPAC volunteers would not be required to be responsible for every neighborhood.
- Neighborhoods would peruse tables and/or posters that illustrate the status report data and a summary of neighborhood group comments from the first round of open houses.
- 5-10 bullet points articulating the neighborhood group comments would be accompanied by links to online resources that would contain all the comments.

The Sector Open House Subcommittee seeks comments from the NPAC regarding:

1. Suggestions about scheduling of meeting times and alternate venues.
 - Gymnasiums are the preferred venue according to DPD
 - Subcommittee members would rather not have the open houses at religious institutions if at all possible.
2. Suggestions for alternate forms of outreach to increase attendance?
 - Event Posters - posting in the neighborhood
 - Neighborhood blogs came up numerous times as a good vehicle for outreach
 - Flyer handouts in the community
 - Lack of outreach funding a concern
 - Subcommittee would like more advanced notice of the events for proper outreach
 - The online questionnaire used for the first round of meetings exceeded expectations. Over 10x the number of people responded. There were however some complaints that the questionnaire times out after 15 minutes.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR NPAC

1. As revised per the above, will the Status Reports have enough information for NPAC to determine which neighborhoods should be recommended for updates? The SR Subcommittee would like approval on its above recommendations to DPD.
2. **Prioritization:** Since its first meeting, the SR Subcommittee has been thinking about how the SRs can be used to help NPAC prioritize updates. The subcommittee is not directly tasked with this scope, but recommends that a separate subcommittee take this on so it can be accomplished in sync with DPD's schedule.
3. **Outreach:** Because community input is integral to Status Report and Open Houses success, the SR and OH Subcommittees would like to hear how NPAC outreach efforts are progressing. The subcommittees discussed that blogs and "posting" has been an effective tool for encouraging people to fill out online questionnaires and could be effective in other ways (though there is awareness that this form of communication may not be entirely equitable). A modest budget for printing would be a good thing to propose.